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**THURSDAY, AUGUST 9, 2012**

## Don't rush

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## Bog fire

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# INPORT NEWS

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## ■ CANAL DAYS: Mayor impressed with event

## Even the heat can't beat Canal Days

VICTORIA GRAY  
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — "We've had almost 35 years of fine-tuning the event and that leads to success," Vance Badawey says.

The mayor of Port Colborne was very impressed with this year's Canal Days Marine Heritage Festival.

He said volunteers, city staff, police and firefighters worked together flawlessly to put on a great weekend that drew record numbers of people.

Friday night's The Trews performance and Saturday night's Sloan concert both drew approximately 9,000 people to Market Square.

Thunderstorms on Sunday afternoon forced the kite and car shows to pack it in and severely diminished crowds at the Irish Party in Market Square.

"There were some things that suffered due to the rain, but people came back out afterward," he said.

see HEAT | Page 2



DAVE HANUSCHUK Staff Photo  
Crowds gather to watch fireworks on Wt St.



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## upfront

■ HEAT: MINOR MEDICAL CALLS DURING EVENT

## Sunday storm caused second look at festival

FROM PAGE 1

The planning committee met every few hours at city hall to decide whether fireworks should continue, and in the end they drew a record 40,000 people.

Badawey said that police reported few problems during a logistics meeting Monday morning.

"Traffic is always a challenge after the fireworks. When you have 40,000 people there and then leav-

ing all at the same time, it becomes challenging to get them out comfortably. But other than that, it went well," Badawey said.

Saturday's heat may have kept some people home, but thousands of people still walked West St. and the surrounding area.

Business owners couldn't complain about the weather because the heat drove people inside to cool off and the rain sent them running for shelter.

Jennifer Gardiner, from the British Baking Company on Charlotte St., said they saw more business this year than ever before.

"We had people knocking on the door before we opened and it's been packed since," she said.

Crystal Huneault, owner of Glam Girl on West St., said it was a great year for her and she loves seeing the customers who come every year to buy something from the store.

"It's been pretty close to the same

as last year, but we certainly do have a lot of diehard Canal Days goers," she said.

Port Colborne fire Chief Tom Cartwright said the weather resulted in a few cases of heat exhaustion.

"Given the heat on Saturday, I thought we would have been busier, but people looked after themselves well enough," he said.

There was a minor car accident at the intersection of Killaly and King Sts. Firefighters responded after a

car allegedly ran a red light but no one involved sustained any injuries.

City staff and firefighters did their best to keep an eye on people at the festival.

"We brought more water out and really kept a close eye on people — especially, elderly people — and if we saw people struggling with the heat, firefighters asked if they needed water," Badawey said. "We want to make sure the people who come down here are looked after."

■ CANAL DAYS: Exploring nautical roots

## History remembered in waves at museum

LINDSAY CASTELLO  
For InPort News

PORT COLBORNE — History lovers made waves last weekend as crowds gathered to celebrate this city's nautical roots and explore traditional pastimes.

The Port Colborne Historical and Marine Museum worked to bring a splash of heritage to the city's annual Canal Days festival by hosting a variety of activities on its King St. grounds.

"The exhibits change and there's always something new. People like to come back year after year," assistant curator Michelle Mason said of the appeal the museum has to festival-goers.

From 11 a.m. until 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, the museum brought together many local groups that shared their hobbies and talents.

Traditional activities showcased included blacksmithing, weaving, spinning and printing using an old-fashioned press, while the museum also put model boats and machinery on display.

Tasty treats were on the menu, including Crystal Beach waffles, lemonade and a pork dinner.

Children's activities, such as dress-up, miniature golf and potato sack races, kept youngsters on the move while those looking to relax could view a selection of entertainers from seats set up outside the pavilion or at the entertainment

tent.

Saturday brought duo Vox Violin and the Niagara Old-Time Fiddlers while Sunday featured Against the Grain. Tara's School of Highland Dance also took to the stage to expand on the Celtic-themed performances on Sunday.

Historical re-enactors from the 2nd Lincoln Regiment stopped by to greet visitors and hold demonstrations on the north end of the grounds.

The museum frequently updates its exhibits throughout the season and planned a special showing to coincide with a nautical milestone.



LINDSAY CASTELLO For InPort News

Paul Dreher of the Kitchener Golden Triangle Marine Modelers helped four-year-old Jason Klemm steer a remote-controlled model boat at the Port Colborne Museum.

see MUSEUM | Page 3

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# portraits

■ **MUSEUM:** New additions to attractions

## Museum all about making Canal Days a family-friendly event

FROM PAGE 2

New to the museum in time for Canal Days this year is *Permission to Come Aboard*, an exhibit designed to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Canadian Coast Guard. While vessels lined the canal, a photographic display could be found in the archival building.

The nautical-themed exhibit continues until December in the marine exhibit lighthouse on the museum grounds.

The Royal Ontario Museum's Starlab was a hit with stargazers as visitors stepped inside the inflatable planetarium set up in the archival building.

Starlab acted as an educational tool to help guests explore

the night sky.

Mason said the museum is usually a busy destination during Canal Days and many visitors brought their children making the most of what the museum had to offer.

"We're really trying to make it a family-friendly event," Mason said.



VICTORIA GRAY Staff Photos and LINDSAY COSTELLO For InPort News

In these photos clockwise from left: Kimberly King, left, and her sister Katie King, from Chippawa spent Saturday afternoon enjoying the midway; members of the 2nd Lincoln Regiment of Foot and the 104th New Brunswick Regiment of Foot participated in battle re-enactments on Saturday at H.H. Knoll Park; musical duo Vox Violins was one of the acts that entertained crowd at the museum; Austin Davidson, from Welland attempts to conquer a spinning exit of a ride while James Ellis, from Port Colborne watches for hints.

# INPORT NEWS

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## ourview

### Teachers slow learners

They were burning the midnight oil at Ontario's Labour Ministry. In one room, teachers hunkered down; in another, school board negotiators. Between them, Ontario's top labour troubleshooter shuned.

The high school teachers were on strike, the semester in jeopardy for an army of kids. Their rural, sometimes school board had no extra cash and couldn't hit up recession-weary taxpayers for it.

The issue? Teachers were dug in to hang onto an archaic pension system to bank their unused sick days for a big, career-ending payouts. Hours later, a bleary-eyed teacher's drift drifted out for a break. "I just know the public's behind us," he told reporters. "We hear the cash honking, 'Whadya think?' I resisted honesty. The economy was in the ditch, unemployment through the roof and one in 10 Ontarians on welfare. The NDP government was battling a \$8.7-billion budget shortfall.

Flash forward 20 years. Once again, teachers are in a snit. Only this time, it's most of them. Again, the government is in hook up to its eyeballs. This one time, it's the Liberals.

Then, as now, public servants who felt no pain in a grim recession were being told to suck it up. This time, it's merely wage freezes — not the layoffs the private sector has taken — they're being asked to accept. No surprise, their unions are refusing to even talk.

Only one big union, for English Catholic teachers, has settled with the province. But that deal cut out the school boards, risking backlashes. The Liberals have warned they want signed deals by teachers and boards by month's end. If not, they're prepared to recall the legislature to impose them. The government wants to freeze teachers' wages and movement up salary grids for two years, and finally scrap the banking of unused sick days. "We are running out of runway," Premier Dalton McGuinty said last week.

Clearly, Teachers want fall labour peace in the schools. Deals would also blunt any attacks he might suffer, in two fall byelections, for being too soft on teachers. Oddly, though, the holdout unions see no need for urgency. For a profession whose deal is getting through with them, they've come across as incredibly slow learners. For five long months, they've known Ontario has to whip its \$16 billion deficit or fall further into the grasp of bond-rating agencies. Repeatedly, they've heard McGuinty make the case for wage austerity. They've also known the legislative hammer could come down — many taxpayers would applaud it. Still, even with all that writing on the wall, many teachers refuse to accept they need to be part of the solution.

Twenty years ago, his back to the wall, NDP premier Bob Rae tore up thousands of contracts to enforce public-sector restraint, including 5% wage backlogs. Teachers didn't like that, either. Many fled to the Mike Harris-led Tories in the next election, proving again that reading the writing on the wall isn't their strong suit.

greg.vanmorse@sunmedia.ca

## COLUMN

Just recently, I celebrated my 19th birthday by spending time with good friends, getting dressed up, and proudly showing off my new legal ID to a bouncer at a bar in downtown St. Catharines.

At 19 years old, I have accomplished everything I've wanted to. I don't mean to toot my own horn, but I graduated high school on the cusp of 19, took a year off to travel and live in Europe, and figured out what I truly want in life.

And I have no regrets.

I was able to do these things not only because I had saved up money by working part time and possessing an open mind, but a couple other factors also allowed me to trek all the way over to Italy guilt-free. I did not have the responsibility of being a mother, did not have an extremely important job, nor was I in a committed relationship.

I'm taking advantage of the time I have as a young adult while still being able to ensure that I have a bright and successful future ahead of me.

Sadly enough, not all young women are able to truly enjoy their youth.

But by choice.

I've read lately that several people I know who are my age are deciding to tie the knot before finishing university. In fact, some have only finished their first



Michelle Pressé

SMALL TOWN GIRL,  
BIG IDEAS

year of their post-secondary education.

Call me old fashioned (or modern, I should say), but it is my own personal belief that marriage is an eternal commitment, which is very difficult to promise at such a young age. Why anyone would want to be living under their parents' roof while planning their wedding is beyond me.

Most young people do not have the financial needs to throw the wedding bash of their dreams, and I recognize that of course the reception is not a reflection on the true meaning of marriage. But who seriously wants to worry about homework and affording college tuition while worrying about whether white roses or lilies will make a better centerpiece?

The problem with getting married at a young age is that you cannot possibly have enough money to finance your belt in order for you to be certain about settling down for the rest of your life. As pessimistic as it sounds, when you're

young and in love, you're constantly in honeymoon mode where life doesn't have to do with paying bills or worrying about whether or not you're in laws' approval of the way you dress/cook/think.

I don't care how mature some teenagers think they are. Life at this age is about pursuing your post-secondary education and figuring out who you are, not about how many karats are in your diamond ring.

Someone I know recently got engaged to her boyfriend of a year and a half. I asked how soon they were planning on having the wedding and she replied by saying, "In a year or two." I'm not sure if she realizes that the planning of her wedding will take just as long as the amount of time that she's been in the relationship for.

Studies show that the younger a couple is and the less time they've been together for, the more likely they are to split. So why is everyone suffering from a bad case of the "it won't happen to us" syndrome?

If you truly believe that you're going to spend the rest of your life with the person you're already committed to, you need to rush. The ceremony may be beautiful, but going through a divorce at 22 isn't.

## readers' views

### Canadian green capital nonsense

I'm disappointed that the powers that be on the regional council have decided to give us yet another label without the consent of all its members.

Here in Welland, there is a majority who do not want wind turbines cluttering up our landscape. We do not provide sufficient power to justify their existence. What is needed is excellent management of our resources; people above all. Just because China has yet another investment in Canada, in Thorold, does not make Niagara the "Green Energy Capital of Canada."

Your editorial is accurate — it's putting the cart before the horse. The sheer arrogance is overwhelming. There is no such thing as "green energy." This is a myth perpetuated by ignorance. Then we have two western provinces bickering over money from oil. It's high time that from "coast to coast" we do "coast" people in charge of our lives do more to facilitate the well-being of the country as a whole and act accordingly.

Pat Casack  
Port Colborne

### Just call Niagara McGuintyville

Rather than dream up such an absurd title as the 'Green Capital of Ontario' why didn't that majority of Niagara regional councillors keep it simple and just rename Niagara McGuintyville? It would be far more appropriate.

A majority of this regional council were re-elected and in a previous administration entered into a business deal with the Niagara Region Wind Energy Task Force. Both are wasting our tax dollars on what is no more than corporate welfare.

There can't be anyone left not aware that neither industrial wind or solar power can deliver on a single economic, environmental or energy promise made in any supposedly seeking proponents.

On the same day the new 'title' was fanfared, this same bunch voted to proceed with a region-wide public transit system.

Previous reports have made it quite clear that the much smaller transit system, as it already exists, is financially unsustainable and will only survive with, yet again, more of our tax dollars. In fact the further they expand this service the more taxes will be required to pay for it.

And these folk really appear to believe they are somehow to be seen as responsible to their constituents for spending our tax dollars wisely and that no one should even dare question them.

Like the Roman Emperor Nero, Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty seems to be 'fiddling while Ontario's economy burns'. Here in Niagara our regional councillors are not only fiddling, they seem to be actively seeking fuel to keep Niagara burning and ensure an economic disaster.

Perhaps someone can come up with the actual debt Niagara has now? Then maybe divide that figure by the number of regional councillors. At least us citizens would have some idea of how much of our tax dollars each one of them so far doesn't think is enough to keep keeping from us and wasting.

McGuintyville would be good. Maybe the 'man' himself could come down to bestow the name and give our regional council some more tips to help to bankrupt us all even faster.

Andrew Watts  
Wainfleet

see LETTER | page 5

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## ■ COLUMN: Canine class

# Non-sporting dogs of U.S., Croatia and Germany

The Boston Terrier is one of the few breeds of dogs that were developed in the USA. The breeders combined the early Bulldogs with white Bull Terriers to get the desired size and colour that they wanted.

These breeders lived in the Boston area so when it came time to apply to register the breed with the American Kennel Club, they chose the name Boston Terrier. Colour and markings are very important with this breed. They must have white on their muzzles, legs, chest and collar. They can only be black and white or brindle and white.

Because of these markings, they look like little dogs wearing tuxedos. With their excellent temperament and markings they became known as the "American Gentlemen" of the dog world.

The Dalmatian is the only dog with spots although they are born pure white and the spots come later as they grow. He is believed to have been developed in eastern Europe. The gypsies always had dogs with spots that travelled with them from place to place. Croatia is believed to be the country of origin as it is there that the region called Dalmatia can be found. It is believed that this is why the dogs are called Dalmatians as they originated in Dalmatia.

The Dalmatian has a strong love for horses and so he was used to run beside the carriages to protect the horses from attack by stray dogs. In American he was adopted as the firehouse dog again because of his love for horses when fire engines were pulled by horses. They became known as the "firehouse dog" and the "carriage dog".



**Sandie Bingley**  
IT'S A DOGS LIFE

Even after horses were not used for transportation the Dalmatian was still kept as the mascot of fire halls. The Dalmatian can have black spots or liver spots but should not have large patches of colour. This is a breed that enjoys lots of controlled exercise. They can have kidney problems and deafness in the breed.

From Germany we have the German Pinscher which looks like a young small Doberman Pinscher. But the German Pinscher is a much older breed than the Doberman Pinscher. It is believed that the Doberman was developed from the German Pinscher along with other breeds to make it much larger. The German Pinscher although smaller is an excellent ratter.

The breed lost popularity and was almost extinct by the 1950s. Thanks to a faithful breeder in Germany we still have the German Pinscher today. The breed is fearless, loyal and affectionate.

Another German breed is the Lowchen or "little lion dog". His coat is trimmed so that he looks like a little lion with a long haired mane and a tuft of hair on the end of his tail. The Lowchen can be found in many paintings as far back as the 15th century. He was once known as the most expensive and the rarest dog in the world. Today the Lowchen is playful and outgoing and is enjoying new popularity.

## ■ READING REMEDY



Zoey Snider read A Pet Vet by Mary Man-Kong to Marci, a 10-year-old yellow lab and St. John's Ambulance therapy dog, Wednesday afternoon at Port Colborne Public Library. Her mother, Tish, said their family dog died about a year ago and Zoey didn't take it well. She hopes reading to the therapy dog will help.

VICTORIA GRAY Staff Photo

## ■ LETTER: Reader weighs in

## Rail service predates buses

FROM PAGE 4

### One transit system for Niagara

One transit system for all of Niagara sounds like a great idea, a system whereby residents can travel from St. Catharines to Port Colborne by way of Welland and Pelham, or from Port Colborne to Niagara-on-the-Lake, and then on to Niagara Falls.

Our regional councillors think they have come up with a new idea do they? Well I have news for them, there was a light rail transit system that bisected the peninsula long before most of them were born. It was an electric trolley line that ran from Port Dalhousie to Port Colborne, but because of the increase in the use of personal vehicles, and a better system of roads, it fell by the wayside.

If regional council really wants to implement a regional transit system, why not rebuild the old N&W trolley system, most of the original right-of-way still exists, and those portions that don't could be rebuilt. The portions that are now walking, and

recreational trails would remain such by building an over-head mono-rail system, and that way the line would be using a dual use. The whole system could be financed economically and almost self-sufficient by a taxing wind and solar power, each stop along the way would have a solar panel roof over the waiting area, and every support tower would incorporate a wind turbine.

For those opposed to mega-wind turbines, those used by the rail system could be the smaller type now used by small industries and private citizens, who don't seem to be fazed by the technology. The City of Calgary, whose LRT system, with an annual ridership of over one million passengers is powered by wind turbines, and by doing so has been able to keep fares, and maintenance costs low. Regional council has proclaimed Niagara the Green Energy Capital of Canada, so let's prove it by building a clean and green public transit system.

Jim Bray  
Port Colborne

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■ **FIRE:** Wainfleet fire service and conservation authority monitoring situation

# Wainfleet bog is burning

DAVE JOHNSON  
InPort News Staff

**WAINFLEET** — An inaccessible area of the Wainfleet Bog is on fire and fire officials in Wainfleet and the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority are going to let it burn for now.

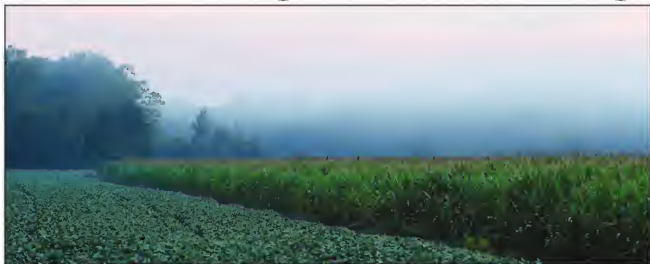
Wainfleet fire Chief Harry Flagg said the conservation authority notified him of the fire last week after it received a call from Port Colborne fire Chief Tom Cartwright.

Cartwright said his fire service received burning complaints from the Hwy. 58 area and when he investigated, there was smoke in the area and embers landing on the highway.

Flagg, who has dealt with bog fires in the past when he was a volunteer firefighter in Wainfleet, said the conservation authority is the lead agency in terms of the fire and he's working with them, offering his assistance.

He said if the fire gets to the point where it's close to outside property or a danger to people, then it will be fought.

"There's no immediate threat to life," Mary Stack, the conservation authority's commu-



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

In this view from Port Colborne-Wainfleet Townline Rd. North, smoke from a fire in an inaccessible area of the Wainfleet Bog drifts across a field. Fire officials in Wainfleet and the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority are going to let the fire burn for now.

cations director, said at this point the two agencies are monitoring the situation.

"Where the fire is located it's difficult to bring any equipment or anything in," she said.

Flagg said to get fire trucks and lay lines (fire hoses) to the scene a road would have

to be built into the bog.

Stack said the NPCA's chief administrative officer has consulted with the Ministry of Natural Resources about the fire to see if the government agency could help with equipment or planes.

"The fire is not on their property or in their jurisdic-

tion. We own part of the bog and the ministry owns part, too," said Stack.

She said if the ministry were to come in and fight the fire, it would cost \$5,000 a day, which is not "in anyone's budget."

The conservation authority owns 809.4 hectares (2,000 acres) of the bog and the ministry owns a section as well. The total size of the bog is roughly 1,460 hectares (3,607 acres).

The ministry has fought fires back in the bog in the past, on land it controlled, in 1999 and 2000. It, said Flagg, has staff that know how to fight fires in bogs.

"It's specialized training that we don't have."

The chief said what makes bog fires potentially dangerous to both firefighters and the general public is that the fire burns underground and can't be seen. A person could be right on top of the fire and not know it.

The ground could collapse and people might not be able to get out. I've heard stories of 10 metre (30 feet) deep holes opening up," he said.

While the fire burns, smoke is drifting across Wainfleet to

both the north and east, into Port Colborne and Welland. People were commenting on The Tribune's website about the smell of smoke in both cities.

Flagg has instructed St. Catharines fire dispatch to contact him directly if there are any burning complaints or fire calls in the area of the bog, so he can determine if it is just smoke from the bog fire.

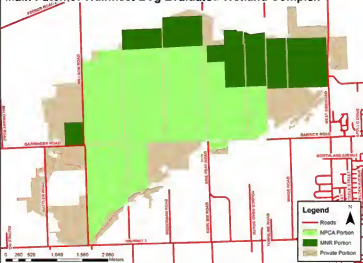
Stack said the cause of the fire is unknown, but it's possible that it was caused by a lightning strike because it's in an area the public wouldn't have access to or go to.

"At this point we're hoping for rain ... the bog is very dry."



Flagg

## Main Patch of Wainfleet Bog Evaluated Wetland Complex



SUPPLIED ILLUSTRATION

This map shows the Wainfleet Bog and the portions controlled by the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority and Ministry of Natural Resources and those in private hands.

## QUICK FACTS ABOUT THE WAINFLEET BOG.

- There are about 350 plants species and dozen of species of reptiles and mammals in the area, many of which are rare, such as the Massasauga rattlesnake and the spotted turtle.
- Peat mining started sometime in the late 1800s or early 1900s and ceased in the late 1980s. Part of the peat operation, on Erie Peat Rd. in Wainfleet, was used as a prisoner of war camp in the Second World War, with prisoners carrying out the mining.
- The Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority purchased 2,000 acres of the bog, in partnership with the Nature Conservancy of Canada in late 1996.
- Part of the bog is taken care of by the Ministry of Natural Resources and is classified as an Area of Natural and Scientific Interest. The rest of the bog is run by the Conservation Authority.
- The bog stretches from Wainfleet, eastwards into Port Colborne running almost parallel with Highway 3 and meeting up at Highway 58.
- More information can be found here [www.npca.ca/conservation-areas/wainfleet-bog/wainfleet-bog-recovery/](http://www.npca.ca/conservation-areas/wainfleet-bog/wainfleet-bog-recovery/)

■ **SHERKSTON SHORES:** Man last seen off of Elcho Beach

# Search suspended for missing man on lake

SARAH FERGUSON  
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Niagara Region Police have suspended a search for a man who was reported missing on an air mattress on Lake Erie Wednesday evening.

Police were called after a man, who was initially observed relaxing on an air mattress about 200 metres from the shore of Sherkston Shores's Elcho Beach, seemed to disappear from the sight of onlookers at 8:30 p.m., said Const. Derek Watson, NRP media officer.

Two men took to the water on a personal watercraft in an attempt to locate the man. After a lengthy search, they returned to shore without locating the male or his air mattress.

Watson said a shoreline was searched Wednesday night with negative results. The Joint Rescue Co-Ordination Centre in Trenton, Ont. was contacted and Port Colborne Marine Auxiliary Rescue (POCOMAR) until's two vessels were sent out to search. A C-130 Hercules from Trenton was also dispatched and dropped flares over the scene as the

search moved into the early morning hours.

There was no sign of the man or raft and the search effort was called off Thursday at 3 a.m. The NRP resumed the search later Thursday morning, deploying ATVs to search the area from Sherkston Shores east to Point Abino Rd. and also west of Sherkston for the man reported missing, Watson said.

A helicopter from the Erie County Sheriff's Department conducted a search along the shoreline and Watson said nothing was found.

There were no reports of missing persons from the area. The search activity did not result in anyone coming forward to police with concerns, said Watson.

"The investigation was suspended pending further information," Watson said.

Although he said it is difficult to speculate, the missing man may have been drifting and was picked up by friends in a nearby boat.

Anyone with information that could assist in this matter is asked to contact the Niagara Regional Police, at 905-735-7811 ext. 3306.

■ **FIREFIGHTERS DONATE**

DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

Port Colborne Professional Firefighters (International Association of Fire Fighters Local 2307) donated \$1,000 to the Mayor's Youth Advisory Council during a car wash on the weekend to raise funds for the new skatepark. Firefighter Angie Spiece handed over the cheque to the youth council members who washed down the tanker truck at Westside Arena

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■ **CULVERT CONSTRUCTION**

DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

An excavator from Ducheron Ltd. tears up Forks Rd. at Phillips and Feeder Rds. in Wainfleet on Wednesday. Twin culverts are being replaced under the road said Niagara Region, Forks Rd. is closed until Friday, Aug. 24 to both vehicle and pedestrian traffic while the work goes on. Gibbons Contracting, with subcontractor Ducheron, are carrying out the work.

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■ **HOCKEY:** Junior B team presenting awards at Sunday dinner at Emerald Pines

# Golf tourney all 'fore' education fund for Pirates players

**BERND FRANKE**  
InPort News Staff

**PORT COLBORNE** — Before the Port Colborne Pirates hit the ice with their hockey sticks for their first exhibition game, the junior B team will hit the links with their golf clubs.

And, like picking up two points in the Greater Ontario

Junior Hockey League standings, especially against the arch-rival Welland Junior Canadians, the Don Cherry's Port Colborne Pirates will have a goal in mind when they approach the first tee. All proceeds from a tournament Sunday, Aug. 12, at Emerald Pines Golf Course in Port Colborne will benefit an education fund for

players.

Included in the \$110 entry fee is a round of golf, which gets underway with a shotgun start at 1 p.m., cart, steak dinner and gift. Call team owner Tim Toffolo at 905-658-2190 to book a four-some or sponsor a hole.

A highlight of the dinner is the presentation of team awards to players who

helped the team advance to the Golden Horseshoe Conference finals for the first time in 11 years.

For returning players as well as for head coach Bryan Kelly and his staff, the golf tournament will represent their first break of training camp, which gets underway the day before at Ridley College, beginning at 2 p.m.

The second day of the Pirates main camp, on Monday, Aug. 13, also will be held at the private school in St. Catharines, with the session beginning at 4 p.m. Players are urged to bring running shoes and shorts as there will be dryland training both on days.

A dryland workout also is scheduled to take place

Sunday, Aug. 19, beginning at 4 p.m. from Westside Arena, where on-ice sessions will be held Aug. 20-22, all beginning at 630 p.m.

Meanwhile, with two exhibition games already confirmed, the Pirates expect to be ship-shape by the time they host Welland in the season opener Friday, Sept. 7.



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QMI AGENCY File Photo

Peter Jekel, Niagara Region's manager of environmental health, said the number of mosquitoes infected with the West Nile is on the rise

## ■ PREVENTION: Get rid of standing pools of water

# More mosquitoes carrying West Nile virus

VICTORIA GRAY  
in Port News Staff

NIAGARA — West Nile still bugs Niagara.

The number of mosquitoes infected with the virus is on the rise.

Peter Jekel, Niagara Region's manager of environmental health, said eight of 21 traps throughout the region have shown positive pools, while last year only 11

positive pools were recorded. "This year we're ahead of the curve," he said.

Region employees usually start finding positive pools around the second or third week of July, but this year they started finding positive pools the last week of June and first week of July.

The virus becomes detectable earlier if the mosquitoes breed more frequently because it is amplified in

later generations of the insect.

So far the region has found positive pools in Thorold, Pelham, Niagara-On-The-Lake and St. Catharines, but no human cases have been reported.

Jekel said people may not experience symptoms at all, but 20% experience flu-like symptoms, but neurological issues associated with the disease are rare.

"People who display the neurological symptoms like, paralysis or meningitis or severe symptoms are fairly rare, but they do happen to maybe one in every 150 people or so," he said.

Jekel suggests people try to reduce to amount of standing water on their properties to help reduce mosquito breeding grounds.

see WEST NILE | page 12



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## ■ WEST NILE

# Draining standing water helps limit mosquito population

FROM PAGE 11

"If you have a birdbath, that's OK, just try to empty it every three days," he said.

Watch out for kid's toys that accumulate water because even a small sand pail with

standing water in it gives the insects somewhere to lay eggs.

The region kills larva in their standing traps three times during the summer and investigates reports of large pools of standing water

on properties and deals with them accordingly.

Jekel said it's hard to tell why this year is worse than others, but this year's warm weather may have something to do with their prolific breeding.

"The number of generations of mosquitoes increase in higher temperatures because they go through their life cycle faster than they would in lower temperatures," he said. "But it's hard to say anything 100%."

## Help get West Nile under control by:

- Cleaning gutters around houses
- Draining birdbaths and standing ponds every three days
- Emptying all standing water from children's toys and backyard ornaments, patio's and equipment
- Wearing bug repellent with DEET if you plan to go outside in the early morning, evening or into a heavily wooded area



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## ■ PATIO STONE PAINTING



These children enjoyed painting patio stones for their parents on Wednesday as part of a summer program at the Port Colborne Public Library. Pictured are Zoey Snider (left), James Ellis (above), Ashton Baer (near right) and Emily Mannelia (far right).

All pictures by VICTORIA GRAY Staff Photographer



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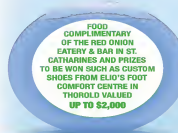


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